

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A ribbed ~~push-in~~ suture anchor formed by a process comprising the steps of:

placing at least one piece of suture in a mold

molding a ribbed ~~push-in~~ suture anchor body around the suture by delivering an uncured polymer into the mold; and

causing the polymer to cure.

2. (currently amended) The ribbed ~~push-in~~ suture anchor of claim 1, wherein the suture anchor body has a proximal end, and the suture forms a loop outside the proximal end of the suture anchor body.

3. (currently amended) A method of producing an insert-molded ribbed ~~push-in~~ suture anchor, the method comprising the steps of:

placing at least one piece of suture in a mold;

molding a ribbed ~~push-in~~ suture anchor body around the suture by delivering an uncured polymer into the mold; and

causing the polymer to cure.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the ribbed ~~push-in~~ suture anchor is ~~ribbed~~ formed at least partially from bioabsorbable material.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the suture is placed in the mold so as to form a loop at the proximal end of the ribbed ~~push-in~~ suture anchor.

6. (currently amended) A surgical method comprising the steps of:

forming a hole in bone;

installing an insert molded ribbed ~~push-in~~ suture anchor into the hole; and

securing tissue to the insert molded ribbed suture anchor.

7. (currently amended) A method of surgical tissue plication comprising the steps of:

plicating a section of tissue with a length of suture;

preparing a hole in bone near the plicated tissue;

loading a leg of the length of suture through an eyelet of an insert molded ribbed ~~push-in~~ suture anchor;

positioning the ribbed ~~push-in~~ suture anchor on a plication driver, the leg of the length of suture exiting through a slot in the side of the plication driver; and

installing ~~pushing~~ the insert molded ribbed ~~push-in~~ suture anchor into the hole.

8. (original) A plication driver for a suture anchor, the driver comprising:

a cannulated shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

a cannulated handle attached to the proximal end of the shaft;

a recess formed in the distal end of the shaft; and

a slot formed in a wall of the shaft, the slot being continuous with the recess formed in the distal end of the shaft.

9. (currently amended) An insert-molded anchor assembly comprising:

a hand driver having a cannulated shaft with an open recess on an end of the shaft; and

an insert molded ribbed push-in suture anchor comprising an anchor body molded around suture positioned in the recess on the end of the shaft.

10. (new) The insert-molded anchor assembly of claim 9, further comprising

a slot formed in a wall of the shaft, the slot being continuous with the recess formed in the distal end of the shaft.

11. (new) A plication driver for a suture anchor, the driver comprising:

a cannulated shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

a cannulated handle attached to the proximal end of the shaft;

a recess formed in the distal end of the shaft; and

a distally open-ended slot formed as a narrow, elongate opening through a wall of the shaft adjacent the recess.

12. (new) The plication driver of claim 11, wherein the slot is continuous with the recess formed in the distal end of the shaft.

13. (new) The plication driver of claim 11, wherein a closed end of the slot is located along the shaft proximal to the recess.

14. (new) The plication driver of claim 11, wherein the slot is formed axially along the wall.